IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A speech recognition apparatus disposed in a robot device, comprising:

speech recognition means for recognizing speech including a dictionary in which words to be recognized in speech recognition are described;

control means for controlling said speech recognition means in accordance with a growth state of said robot device, wherein said growth state is comprised of a plurality of nodes corresponding to increasing maturity levels for said robot device; and

action decision means for determining and performing a predetermined action in accordance with the speech recognized by said speech recognition means and an occurrence probability of the predetermined action as determined by the growth state,

wherein said control means controls said speech recognition means such that the words described in said dictionary are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot device and speech recognition is performed using the weighted words,

wherein coefficients for said weighted words are controlled by the growth state, and

wherein the occurrence probability is based on data collected from distinct behavior and environmental models comprised of a plurality of nodes representing unique actions.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) A speech recognition apparatus according to Claim

1, wherein said control means changes the recognition accuracy of said speech recognition

means in accordance with the growth state of said ~~robot~~ device.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Currently Amended) A speech recognition apparatus according to Claim

1, wherein:

said speech recognition means includes dictionary storage means for storing a

plurality of dictionaries in which words to be recognized in speech recognition are described

such that the words to be recognized are divided into groups and the respective groups of words

are stored in different dictionaries; and

said control means controls said speech recognition means such that the words

described in the respective dictionaries are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said

~~robot~~ device and speech recognition is performed using the weighted words.

6.   (Currently Amended) A speech recognition apparatus according to Claim

1, wherein:

said speech recognition means includes a dictionary in which words to be

recognized in speech recognition are described such that other words are linked to said words to

be recognized; and

said control means controls said speech recognition means such that another word linked to a word, which is included in the dictionary and which is obtained as a speech recognition result, is output as a final speech recognition word depending upon the growth state of the ~~robot~~ device.

7.   (Previously Presented) A speech recognition apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein words to be recognized in speech recognition are described in said dictionary such that said words are linked to other acoustically or semantically similar words.

8.   (Currently Amended) A speech recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said control means controls the maximum number of words allowed to be described in said dictionary, in accordance with the growth state of said ~~robot~~ device.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently Amended) A speech recognition method for a speech recognition apparatus disposed in a ~~robot~~ device, comprising the steps of:

recognizing speech using a dictionary in which words to be recognized in speech recognition are described;

controlling said speech recognition step in accordance with a growth state of said ~~robot~~ device, wherein said growth state is comprised of a plurality of nodes corresponding to

increasing maturity levels for said ~~robot~~ device; and

determining and performing a predetermined action in accordance with the speech

recognized in said speech recognition step and an occurrence probability of the predetermined

action as determined by the growth state,

wherein said control step controls said speech recognition means such that

the words described in said dictionary are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said

~~robot~~ device and speech recognition is performed using the weighted words,

wherein coefficients for said weighted words are controlled by the growth

state, and

wherein the occurrence probability is based on data collected from distinct

behavior and environmental models comprised of a plurality of nodes representing unique

actions.

11.   (Currently Amended) A program, recorded on a computer-readable

medium within a device, ~~storage medium on which a program to be executed by a computer to~~

~~make a robot~~ which ~~perform~~ performs speech recognition ~~is stored~~, said program comprising the

steps of:

recognizing speech using a dictionary in which words to be recognized in speech

recognition are described;

controlling said speech recognition step in accordance with a growth state of said

~~robot~~ device, wherein said growth state is comprised of a plurality of nodes corresponding to

increasing maturity levels for said ~~robot~~ device; and

determining and performing a predetermined action in accordance with the speech

recognized in said speech recognition step and an occurrence probability of the predetermined

action as determined by the growth state,

wherein said control step controls said speech recognition means such that

the words described in said dictionary are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said

~~robot~~ device and speech recognition is performed using the weighted words,

wherein coefficients for said weighted words are controlled by the growth

state, and

wherein the occurrence probability is based on data collected from distinct

behavior and environmental models comprised of a plurality of nodes representing unique

actions.